

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Editorial

Announcement

On page 14 of this issue will be found a statement of the terms, subscription price, and instruction to correspondents, of the BRETHREN EVANGELIST. It is a standing announcement and will be found at its place each week. On the same page will be found Publisher's Announcements, Personal Mention, Brief Notes, College Notes, etc. This will be a permanent feature of the paper.

Rather Early

Judged by the number of orders received for literature it is evident that quite a number of schools throughout the brotherhood have already closed for the winter. This it seems to us is rather early. If there is any time of the year when a Sunday-school may close for a few months it is from January to April. We question the necessity or the propriety of closing at any time, but why schools should close at this season of the year is somewhat of a mystery to us. The attendance may not be quite as large in the winter as in the summer season, but because a few families find it inconvenient to attend school, say, four or five Sabbaths in the year, is that a reason why the school should close, and those who can and will attend should be deprived of the privilege for five or six months? Keep your school open the entire year. Try it.

What Others Think of Us

Does it matter what others think of us? Should the opinion of others be a guide to us in our conduct? Sometimes a person in an unhappy mood is heard to say, "I do not care what others think of me." Usually that is an expression of recklessness rather than of true courage. We need to have regard for the opinion of good people, especially should we desire to so live that we may win the approval of good men and women. A reckless disregard of others' opinion shows a state of mind full of danger. There come times however to all of us when to be true to God we must disregard public opinion. Loyalty to Christ may require a willingness to bear the criticism of even our nearest and best friends. The standard of human conduct, after all, is the law of Christ.

What Did It?

The preaching of the simple gospel; the preaching that directs people in the way of holiness, that leads them in the good old

paths, the preaching that makes "practical" helpful, active, busy, wide awake Christians, will do more to refute infidelity than all the sermons or lectures delivered against it. An English preacher relates the following:—A minister preached a very fine course of lectures in refutation of some form of infidelity—preached it for the special benefit of one man that attended his place of worship. Shortly after this man came and declared himself a Christian. The minister was glad and said to him, "Which of my discourses was it that removed your doubts?" The answer was: "Oh, it was not any of your sermons that influenced me. The thing that set me to thinking was that a poor woman came out of the chapel beside me and stumbled on the steps; I stretched out my hand to help her, and she said, 'Thank you.' Then she looked at me and said: 'Do you love Jesus Christ, my blessed Savior?' I did not, and I went home and thought about it; and now I can say, 'I love Jesus.'"

Cherish Them

There are times when God seems to be near the soul, when we can speak with him as it were face to face, when the far distance and the dim vision vanishes, and the clearer view, the immediate presence thrills the soul with heavenly peace. These are the "seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord." Cherish them. Have you never noticed how easily we can lose this sense of the divine presence, this blessedness of inner communion? A very little carelessness, a very little indifference, a very little turning again to self or to the world, and the Comforter is grieved away. How often we turn away thus lightly from the threshold of peace and power, and from the possibility of greater fruitfulness as a branch of "the vine."

A Wise Proverb

There is a wise saying "Never do what your enemy wishes you to do." We trust that none of our readers have enemies who would wish them any hurt; but are there not spiritual enemies who are constantly suggesting actions which would bring us nothing but harm? Upon the threshold of every impulse let us inquire: Who would wish me to do this thing, speak this word, perform this action? If the inquiry is an honest and earnest one, an unfailing instinct, or rather we should say, a faithful monitor, will make us instantly to understand whether the source is good or evil, whether it comes from above or below. Does satan wish me to do

this thing, or that? Then I will not do it. In times of perplexity when so fine a line seems to be drawn between the good or the evil of a proposed transaction as to puzzle the faculty of spiritual discernment, to inquire prayerfully, as Saul did: "Lord what wilt thou have me to do," would pour a flood of wonderful light upon the situation. "Light is sown for the upright in heart." When the heart is right there need be no fear of losing one's way.

The One Opportunity

Right views of life do not come to us spontaneously. The education of the world is misleading. Unless we stop and think, unless we seek for other light than the maxims of the world, we will not gain the true meaning of life until it is too late to redeem the time. "Life is short," says the world, "therefore hustle, get all you can; enjoy all you can; fill the hours with pleasures." "Life is short," replies wisdom; "therefore do all the good you can, gladden as many hearts as you may; leave behind you precious memories of a noble and unselfish life." Some one has said: "We travel this road but once, therefore if there is any kindness we may do, if there are sad hearts we may cheer, if there are burdens we may help to lift, if there are lives which we may gladden, let us not miss this one opportunity, for it will never come again. We pass this way but once."

Beware

"Evil communications corrupt good manners." Sharks, it is said, have penetrated into the Mediterranean sea from the Red sea thro the Suez canal. That broad channel of commerce, mingling the waters of the two seas, serves also to introduce where they were never known before those frightful monsters of the deep. Is there some channel in our lives, some canal of our own digging, which communicates with some den of iniquity, some deep, dark habitat of death? Be sure that evil in dreadful entity of cruel tooth and insatiable maw, will keenly and cunningly find its way into your soul. Open the fatal door of opportunity but a little way and the Destroyer will soon fling it wide, and follow the breach with flaming ruin and irreparable woe.

Watch Out

A tramp in the back yard seeing all the members of the household at the front door watching a splendid procession going along the street, slipped unobserved into the house